

in any community were worth more as promoters of peace and in preventing infractions of the law than all the judges, lawyers, courthouses, jails, and chain-gangs in the country. He said further: "If it were not for the influence of the preachers and the churches, all courts in the State, both State and Federal, might run every day in the year, Sunday included, and they could not keep up with the crime." This is not the language of a preacher, but of a lawyer who speaks judicially, and is accustomed to weigh his words. If this statement be true, (and no one will likely deny it), it will be readily seen what a great service Christianity is rendering the State, without money and without price.

It follows that, as State Missions is the agency through which we plant churches in communities where there are none, in the work of State Missions we are aiding the State in the important matter of law enforcement. There is this very marked and important difference, however: the fear of the law may deter the criminal from the commission of crime, while the grace of God cures the criminal so that he has no desire to commit crime. The law may force obedience, while the criminal at heart is a criminal still, and only abstains from the violation of law through fear of punishment. Christianity, on the other hand, leads one who was once a criminal to render cheerful obedience to the law, by creating within him a new heart.